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**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON
IN AND FOR KING COUNTY**

ANDREW BELL and BECKY BELL,
husband and wife;

Plaintiffs,

NO:

vs.

THE BOEING COMPANY, a Delaware
corporation licensed as a Washington
foreign corporation,

COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES

Defendants.

COME NOW the Plaintiffs, Andrew and Becky Bell, by and through the
undersigned attorney of record, and alleges and states as follows:

I. PARTIES AND JURISDICTION

A. Plaintiffs, Andrew Bell and Becky Bell are husband and wife and are
currently residents of North Carolina. At all times relevant to this lawsuit, Andrew Bell
was a resident of North Carolina and also resided in the State of Washington.

B. At all times relevant hereto, the defendant, The Boeing Company
(hereinafter "TBC") was a for profit Delaware corporation licensed to conduct business
in the State of Washington as a foreign corporation. TBC has its principal place of
business in Seattle, Washington and Chicago, Illinois.

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- 2 C. All acts complained of herein occurred in King County, Washington.
- 3 D. Venue is proper in the King County Superior Court.
- 4 E. This Court has subject matter and in persona jurisdiction.

5 II. FACTS GIVING RISE TO PLAINTIFF'S CLAIMS

6 A. Andrew Bell was approached by a recruiter, employed by a vendor for
7 TBC, about applying for a position with TBC. During his initial contact with the
8 recruiter, Andrew alerted the recruiter that he had a sleep disorder that made it
9 impossible for him to work on the graveyard shift (aka 3rd shift). The recruiter assured
10 Andrew that his sleep disorder would not disqualify him from the position and, if he
11 was offered employment, TBC would not place him on 3rd shift. Andrew, who at the
12 time was working another employer, felt that in light of TBC's willingness to
13 accommodate his sleep disorder and the benefits package offered, that a position with
14 TBC would provide his family with financial security.

15 B. On or about October 13, 2017, Andrew received an offer of employment
16 from TBC. The offer was sent by email from jobs@jobs.careersatboeing.com. In that
17 email, Andrew was informed that TBC was extending "an offer of employment for the
18 position of Machine Repair Mechanic A (17000156608). The email provided
19 instructions, with an associated hyperlink, outlining the steps to be taken to accept the
20 offer.

21 C. On or about November 3, 2017, Andrew received a letter from TBC that
22 outlined, in greater detail, the terms of the contingent offer of employment. The
23 contingent offer of employment indicated that Andrew would be working with Boeing
24 Commercial Airplanes in Auburn Washington. It also stated, "You will be working in
25 the 17-07 building on the 2nd shift." The letter continued by outlining his rate of pay,
26 relocation assistance and the contingencies that had to be satisfied before he
27 would be considered an employee of TBC. The November 3, 2017 letter confirmed
28 that Andrew would not be required to work 3rd shift which was consistent with what
had been represented by his recruiter.

1 D. Andrew accepted the job offer and commenced the process of satisfying all
2 the contingencies outlined in the November 3, 2017 letter. In addition, he arranged to
3 move from his home in North Carolina to Auburn, King County, Washington. TBC, as
4 an incentive to attract employees, provided relocation assistance in the approximate
5 sum of \$10,438.62. According to TBC's policy, new hires that are provided relocation
6 assistance must remain in the employ of TBC for a period of one (1) year. New hires
7 that voluntary resign or who are terminated with cause are required to repay relocation
8 assistance.

9 C. On multiple occasions between his receipt of this offer of employment and
10 his official start date (April 20, 2018), Andrew spoke with representatives of TBC about
11 his sleep disorder and that he was medically prohibited from working the 3rd shift.
12 During each interaction, he was assured that he would not have to work on the 3rd
13 shift and that his disability would be accommodated.

14 D. As soon as he completed his orientation, Andrew commenced work at
15 TBC's Auburn facility. When he started, his supervisor, Jim Watterson, told Andrew
16 that he would be required to work 3rd shift. In response, Andrew told Waterson that he
17 was hired on the proviso that he would not work the 3rd shift and, accordingly, would
18 not be working that shift. On or about April 30, 2018, Andrew met with a representative
19 of TBC Human Resources. He reported that he was being forced to work the 3rd shift
20 in contradiction to the express terms of the job offer he accepted. The human
21 resources person confirmed that Andrew was hired with the express understanding
22 that he would be working the 2nd shift and not the 3rd shift.

23 E. On or about May 11, 2018, supervisor Watterson spoke with Andrew and
24 Andrew's union steward. At that time, he instructed Andrew to sign a document
25 consenting to a transfer to the 3rd shift. Andrew refused to sign the document.

26 F. On or about May 14, 2018, Andrew went to see the onsite nurse to get a
27 note that would instruct TBC management that he was not to work the 3rd shift. He
28 was told to schedule an appointment with the nurse. When he appeared for the
appointment, he was told to bring the nurse a note from a physician.

1 G. On or about June 17, 2018, Andrew met with his physician, Dr. Kardashev.
 2 After performing an examination of Andrew, Dr. Kardashev concluded that Andrew
 3 should not work the 3rd shift and gave him a note to take to TBC. Andrew took the
 4 physician's note restricting him from the 3rd shift to the nurse he previously met. Upon
 5 arriving, he learned she no longer worked for TBC. Her replacement told Andrew the
 6 physician's note was not adequate and that he would be required to have a sleep
 7 study in addition to the physician's note.

8 H. Shortly after presenting the physician's note to the replacement nurse,
 9 Andrew was summoned to meet with several Boeing managers. He was told to sign a
 10 document accepting a transfer to the 3rd shift. It was apparent to Andrew that his
 11 failure to sign the transfer document would lead to his termination. Although he told his
 12 management that he accepted the position with TBC only after confirming that he
 13 would not have to work the 3rd shift due to his medical conditions, his management
 14 stated that TBC expected him to work the 3rd shift. Andrew would later learn from
 15 coworkers that TBC engages in a pattern and practice of making promises in the
 16 hiring process that it later ignores when the employee is hired.

17 I. On or about June 25, 2018, Andrew met with Tom Klotz to discuss his
 18 request for workplace accommodation. Mr. Klotz advised Andrew that he would be
 19 kept on 3rd shift for approximately 30 days after which he would be placed on an
 20 unpaid medical leave of absence.

21 J. Andrew was placed on an unpaid medical leave of absence on or about July
 22 27, 2018. Andrew did not have an income and had no idea if TBC would bring him
 23 back from his unpaid medical leave of absence. As a result, he packed his belongings
 24 and move back to North Carolina. After returning to North Carolina, he attempted to
 25 change his mailing address, but the TBC program would only allow him to change his
 26 address if he first received a confirming letter to his Washington address. Since that
 27 was impossible to do, he no longer maintained communication with TBC. TBC,
 28 retaliation for having filed the request for accommodation, subsequently threatened to

1 sue Andrew to recover his moving expenses even though his departure from TBC was
2 the product of TBC's failure to adhere to its promises made during the hiring process.
3

4 **III. CAUSES OF ACTION**

5 A. Re-allegation: For purposes of this section, Plaintiff realleges all allegations
6 contained in sections I and II above and further alleges and states as
7 follows:

8 B. First Cause of Action: Wrongful Termination in Violation of Public Policy

9 During Andrew's employment at TBC, he requested accommodation for a
10 known disability but was denied accommodation even when the request came in the
11 form of a doctor's note. Andrew was actually and constructive discharged when he
12 was let go and placed on an indefinite unpaid medical leave of absence when TBC
13 had other positions available aligned with Andrew's skillset. As a direct proximate and
14 legal result of TBC's actions, Andrew sustained economic and not economic damage
15 in an amount that will be proven at trial, together with pre and post judgment interest
16 at the legal rate, the grossing up of any damages award to account for tax
17 consequences and Plaintiff's attorney's fees and costs.

18 C. Second Cause of Action: Failure to Accommodate. Defendant TBC and its
19 management were aware of Andrew's disability and that a workplace accommodation
20 was required. TBC and its management offered Andrew a position expressly
21 promising him that he would work the 2nd shift and not the 3rd shift, which was
22 consistent with the requirements of his disability. It is alleged and believed that
23 Defendants knew that Andrew would not be assigned to the 2nd shift at the time
24 Defendants extended their job offer even though Defendants and their agents were
25 aware that Andrew's disability required accommodation. Defendants failed to
26 accommodate Andrew's disability and failed to engage in the interactive process
27 required under Washington State law. As a direct proximate and legal result of TBC's
28 actions, Andrew sustained economic and not economic damage in an amount that will
be proven at trial, together with pre and post judgment interest at the legal rate, the

1 grossing up of any damages award to account for tax consequences and Plaintiff's
 2 attorney's fees and costs.

3 D. Third Cause of Action: Disability Discrimination in violation of RCW 49.60,
 4 et. seq. Defendant TBC and its management were aware of Andrew's disability and
 5 that a workplace accommodation was required. TBC and its management offered
 6 Andrew a position expressly promising him that he would work the 2nd shift and not the
 7 3rd shift, which was consistent with the requirements of his disability. It is alleged and
 8 believed that Defendants knew that Andrew would not be assigned to the 2nd shift at
 9 the time Defendants extended their job offer even though Defendants and their agents
 10 were aware that Andrew's disability required accommodation. Defendants
 11 discriminated against Andrew based on his disability and/or perceptions of his
 12 disability. As a direct proximate and legal result of TBC's actions, Andrew sustained
 13 economic and not economic damage in an amount that will be proven at trial, together
 14 with pre and post judgment interest at the legal rate, the grossing up of any damages
 15 award to account for tax consequences and Plaintiff's attorney's fees and costs.

16 E. Fourth Cause of Action: Retaliation. During Andrew's employment at TBC,
 17 Defendants retaliated against Andrew for his insistence that TBC honor its
 18 commitment that he would not have to work the 3rd shift. When Andrew objected to
 19 Defendants conduct, TBC retaliated against Andrew by placing him on an unpaid
 20 medical leave of absence even though TBC had work that Andrew could have
 21 performed on the 1st and 2nd shifts that would not have violated his medical
 22 restrictions. As a direct proximate and legal result of TBC's actions, Andrew sustained
 23 economic and not economic damage in an amount that will be proven at trial, together
 24 with pre and post judgment interest at the legal rate, the grossing up of any damages
 25 award to account for tax consequences and Plaintiff's attorney's fees and costs.

26 F. Fifth Cause of Action: Breach of Contract. Defendants extended an offer of
 27 employment to Andrew that promised him he would be assigned to work the 2nd shift
 28 due to his preexisting disability. Andrew, to his detriment, relied on the promises made
 by Defendants and moved across country to accept Defendants' promised position.

1 Defendants breached their promise and, in fact, had no intention of complying with
2 their promise to allow Andrew to work the 2nd shift. As a direct proximate and legal
3 result of TBC's actions, Andrew sustained economic and non-economic damage in an
4 amount that will be proven at trial, together with pre and post judgment interest at the
5 legal rate, the grossing up of any damages award to account for tax consequences
6 and Plaintiff's attorney's fees and costs.

7 G. Sixth Cause of Action: Declaration of Rights under Contract. After Andrew
8 accepted Defendants offer to work on the 2nd shift, he became entitled to receive
9 relocation expenses. Defendants now seek reimbursement of those relocation
10 expenses. Andrew is requesting this Court to declare that he is not required to repay
11 TBC for his relocation expenses since Defendants failed to accommodate his
12 disability, failed to accommodate his disability, breached their contractual duties to
13 Andrew, retaliated against him based on his insistence that Defendants adhere to their
14 legally required duties and terminated him in violation of public policy.

IV. WAIVER OF PHYSICIAN PATIENT PRIVILEGE

16 Plaintiff hereby waives the physician-patient privilege only to the extent required
17 by RCW 5.60.060, as limited by the Plaintiff's constitutional rights of privacy,
18 contractual rights of privacy, and the ethical obligation of physicians and attorneys not
19 to engage in ex parte contact between a treating physician and the patient's legal
20 adversaries.

V. RESERVATION OF RIGHTS

22 The Plaintiff reserves the right to conduct discovery into alternative claims and
23 to amend this Complaint to add additional causes of action and other defendants.

VI. PRAYER FOR RELIEF

25 WHEREFORE, the Plaintiff prays for this court to grant the following relief:

26 A. To award the Plaintiff his damages, against all named Defendants, on the
27 Plaintiff's First Cause of Action together with all economic damages as proven at trial
28 and non-economic damages, including but not limited to, severe emotional distress,
anxiety, depression, emotional trauma, loss of earnings both past and future, loss of

1 promotional opportunities both past and future, physical illnesses and such other
2 special and general damages as will be proven at the time of trial. Plaintiff also
3 requests an award of pre-judgment and post-judgment interest at the legal rate of 12%
4 per annum and an award of his attorney's fees and costs and an award of twice the
5 amount of wages unlawfully withheld pursuant to RCW 49.52.070.

6 B. To award the Plaintiff his damages, against all named Defendants, on the
7 Plaintiff's Second Cause of Action together with all economic damages sustained by
8 the Plaintiff, including but not limited to, back pay, front pay and health care expenses,
9 together with pre-judgment and post-judgment interest at the legal rate, as well as, the
10 Plaintiff's non-economic damages (general damages) in an amount to be proven at
11 trial, together with an award of Plaintiff's attorney's fees and costs.

12 C. To award the Plaintiff his damages, against all named Defendants, on the
13 Plaintiff's Third Cause of Action together with all economic damages sustained by the
14 Plaintiff, including but not limited to, back pay, front pay and health care expenses,
15 with pre-judgment and post-judgment interest at the legal rate, as well as, non-
16 economic damages (general damages) in an amount to be proven at trial, together
17 with an award of Plaintiff's attorney's fees and costs.

18 D. To award the Plaintiff his damages, against all named Defendants, on the
19 Plaintiff's Fourth Cause of Action together with all economic damages sustained by
20 the Plaintiff, including but not limited to, back pay, front pay and health care expenses,
21 together with pre-judgment and post-judgment interest at the legal rate, as well as, the
22 Plaintiff's non-economic damages (general damages) in an amount to be proven at
23 trial, together with an award of Plaintiff's attorney's fees and costs.

24 E. To award the Plaintiff his damages, against all named Defendants, on the
25 Plaintiff's Fifth Cause of Action together with all economic damages sustained by the
26 Plaintiff, including but not limited to, back pay, front pay and health care expenses,
27 together with pre-judgment and post-judgment interest at the legal rate, as well as, the
28 Plaintiff's non-economic damages (general damages) in an amount to be proven at
trial, together with an award of Plaintiff's attorney's fees and costs.

1 F. For a declaration of rights under the terms of TBC's moving expense
2 agreement that Andrew is not required to repay TBC for moving expenses incurred in
3 moving from North Carolina to Seattle/Auburn Washington together with all economic
4 damages sustained by the Plaintiff, including but not limited to, back pay, front pay
5 and health care expenses, together with pre-judgment and post-judgment interest at
6 the legal rate, as well as, the Plaintiff's non-economic damages (general damages) in
7 an amount to be proven at trial, together with an award of Plaintiff's attorney's fees
8 and costs.

9 G. To award the Plaintiff his attorney's fees and costs in prosecuting this action.

10 H. For such other and further relief as this Court deems just and equitable.

12 Dated this 13th day of August 2020.

13 THE STEPHENS LAW FIRM
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15 /s/ J. Roderik Stephens
16 J. Roderik Stephens, WSBA#14538
Attorney for Plaintiffs
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